

MARY E. KLINE.

MAY 23, 1898.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. KERR, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 3506.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3506) granting a pension to Mary E. Kline, have examined the same and the evidence relating thereto and respectfully report:

This bill proposes to pension, at the rate of \$12 per month, Mary E. Kline, of Lafayette Hill, Pa.

The Senate report states the facts and is as follows:

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3506) granting a pension to Mary E. Kline, have examined the same and report:

This woman is the alleged child of John Kline, who served as captain of Company H, Thirteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, from May 1, 1863, to May 28, 1864, when he was killed in action.

His widow was pensioned in 1872 at \$20, total of soldier's rank, from date of his death. The child was never pensionable under any law. She was born December 27, 1848, and so became 16 shortly after her father's death, but before there was any law allowing pension to minor children. She applied for pension as a helpless minor, but the claim was rejected on the ground that claimant was never on the rolls and was over 16 years of age at date of filing.

There is some testimony on file with the committee as to the condition of the claimant, and the following is a copy of the same:

Dr. P. Y. Eisenberg, Norristown, Pa., testifies as follows:

"I have been acquainted with the said Miss Mary E. Kline for more than thirty-two years past, and personally know her to have suffered from epileptic convulsions to the present time, the paroxysms occurring several times a week, even several in one day, and again not for several weeks. Miss Kline falls in these convulsive attacks, bruising herself and breaking glassware, and therefore is unsafe as a domestic and is incapacitated to perform any service for a livelihood continuously without fear of accident to herself or things she comes in contact with. From my own personal knowledge, I knew her to be dependent on her mother in September, 1865, and was told by her mother herself that she then was, and had been prior and ever since the death of Mrs. Kline's husband, Capt. John Kline. I knew her mother to be a pensioner from September, 1865, to August, 1866, during the time I resided in Mrs. Kline's house, and was a member, so to speak, of her family.

"Mary Kline is unable to provide for herself, owing to her distressing disability—her services not being acceptable to persons employing help of any kind, owing to her affliction and the risks attendant upon its uncertainties. I am fully acquainted with this case professionally, and personally believe it to be eminently a meritorious one. Miss Kline's disability is one which is progressive, and from which she can not be expected to recover, but with advancing years her nervous system becomes more and more exhausted from the shock of the paroxysms, and her mental condition has been and is growing more and more enfeebled in consequence. Her memory has failed materially during the past twenty-five years. To my personal knowledge, she

has lived on the bounty of others from the time I first became acquainted with her to the present time."

There are two other affidavits practically to the same effect, and showing that claimant has never been able to be employed at any occupation suitable for a woman, and has always been dependent on others since her childhood.

The committee report favorably on this bill, with several amendments:

Amend the title so as to read: "A bill granting a pension to Mary E. Kline."

Amend by striking out all after word "cavalry," in line 7; also lines 8, 9, 10, and 11 to the word "at," and insert in lieu thereof the words "and pay her a pension."

Also strike out "twenty," in line 12, and in lieu thereof insert "twelve."

The bill is therefore reported back with the recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

In line 3, after the word "hereby," insert "authorized and."

In line 4 strike out the words "of the United States."

